

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/781,891 Examiner	DELANEY ET AL. Art Unit	
	David Guzo	1636	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 2/3/05.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12, 14, 15 and 21-24.

3. The drawings filed on 29 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/16/05.
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Zhuang Yuan and Frank S. DiGilio on 2/16/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On Page 2, line 5, after the phrase "which corresponds to residue number", delete "150" and substitute --159--.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 30 as follows:

~~Figures 14A to 14F is the representation of the nucleotide sequence of HBV 1.5 genome.~~

In the Claims:

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8 wherein the altered HBV precore promoter or basal core promoter is selected from the group consisting of A1814T, C1856T, G1896A, G1897A, G1898A, G1899A, G1896/G1899A, A1762T/G1764A, T1753C, G1757A and C1653T, (where the numbering is from the unique *EcoRI* site in HBV).

In Claim 21, line 2, after the phrase "combinations of", delete the word "the".

In Claim 22, line 2, after the phrase "combinations of", delete the word "the".

With regard to the above amendment to the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 30 of the specification, the following is noted. The amendment filed 4/29/04 amended the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 30. Applicants subsequently amended the same paragraph on 2/3/05; however, the text of the paragraph recited in the 2/3/05 amendment does not match the text as amended on 4/29/04 and said amendment to the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 30, filed 2/3/05, should not be entered. The examiner has therefore repeated applicants' amendment (filed 2/3/05) to the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 30 with the correct text.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Guzo, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0767. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Irem Yucel, Ph.D., can be reached on (571) 272-0781. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Guzo
February 16, 2005


DAVID GUZO
PRIMARY EXAMINER